ol. XXI JULY 1931 No. 10

THE JAPAN MAGAZINE

Established 1910

A Representative Monthly of Things Japanese

PUBLISHED BY THE JAPAN MAGAZINE Co., TOKYO, JAPAN

PRICE: 50 Sen

Digitized by Google

The Mitsui Bank,

LIMITED

Capital Subscribed . . .	Yen 100,000,000
Capital Paid-up	60,000,000
Reserve Fund	65,200,000

HEAD OFFICE:

1, Suruga-cho, Nihonbashi-ku, Tokyo

HOME BRANCHES:

FUKUOKA, HIROSHIMA, KAMIMAYETSU (Nagoya), KOBE, KYOTO, MARUNOUCHI (Tokyo), MOJI, NAGASAKI, NAGOYA, NIHONBASHI (Tokyo), OSAKA, OSAKA-DOJIMA, OSAKA-KAWAGUCHI, OSAKA-NISHI, OTARU, SHIMONOSEKI, WAKAMATSU (Kyushu), YOKOHAMA

FOREIGN BRANCHES:

BOMBAY, LONDON, NEW YORK, SHANGHAI, SOURABAYA

LONDON BANKERS:

BARCLAYS BANK LTD. MIDLAND BANK LTD.

NEW YORK BANKERS:

BANKERS TRUST CO. CHASE NATIONAL BANK.
NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK.

Digitized by Google

The Yasuda Bank Ltd.

HEAD OFFICE:

Otemachi, Kojimachi-ku, Tokyo

Capital Subscribed . . . . Yen 150,000,000

Reserve Fund . . . . . ,, 62,200,000

Chairman of the Board :
ZENJIRO YASUDA, Esq.

Deputy Chairman :
HIROZO MORI, Esq.

Managing Directors :

HISASHI HYOSU, Esq. *JUNZO SAITO, Esq.*
HISOMU SONOBE, Esq. *YUZO HAMADA, Esq.*

The Bank is now in command, not only of widespread 141 Branches throughout Japan, but also of the services which it has secured from many correspondents over the world, and is able to offer accommodation for every kind of banking facilities, foreign and domestic

FOREIGN BUSINESS:

Tokyo Head Office.
Yokohama Branch, Honcho, Nakaku.
Osaka Branch, Koraibashi, Higashiku.
Kobe Branch, Sakaemachidori.
Otaru Branch, Ironaimachi.
Kushiro Branch, Masagocho.

Digitized by Google

THE JAPAN MAGAZINE

A REPRESENTATIVE MONTHLY OF THINGS JAPANESE

Contents for July, 1931

1. CURRENT JAPANESE THOUGHT ..... By The Editor 429
2. JAPAN'S SUMMER TIME ..... By Y. Azuma 434
3. JAPAN'S CHINA POLICY ..... By Professor Shigeo Suyehiro 438
4. CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF JAPAN'S FOREST AND SCENES ..... By Dr. S. Honda 441
5. ORIENTAL PAINTING ..... By H. Exc. Wang Yung-pao 444
6. TRADE SITUATION IN JAPAN ..... By M. Arikawa 450
7. GOLDFISH ..... By M. Uuchi 454
8. PRESENT AND FUTURE OF JAPANESE COTTON EXPORTS ..... By Mr. Shikamura 458
9. FISH VIEWED SCIENTIFICALLY ..... By Tadao Hoshi 462
10. RAYON INDUSTRY ..... By T. Oba 466
11. FAMOUS CONCHOLOGISTS ..... By Jérome Abé 469

Subscriptions:

In the Japanese Empire, (postpaid) per year in advance.. ¥5.00
In Foreign Countries, (postpaid) per year in advance... $ 3.00
Single Copy ..... 50 sen (25 cents)

Foreign subscriptions should be remitted by P.O. or express money order, to The Japan Magazine Co., 6 Itchome Uchisaiwai-cho, Kojimachi-ku, Tokyo.

Agents:

Maruzen Company, Tokyo
Kyo-Bun-Kwan, Tokyo
Kawase Nissindo, Kobe
Kelly and Walsh, Shanghai
B. F. Stevens and Brown, London
Brentano's, New York and Paris
A. C. McClurg and Co., Chicago, Ill.
Smith and McCance, Boston, Mass.
Kho Hock-Tye, Penang, S. S.
G. E. Stechert and Co., New York
N. S. W. Bookstall Co., Sydney N. S. W.
Tract and Book Society, Bombay
C. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co., Bombay
Federal Rubber Stamp Co., Kuala Lumpor, F. M. States

All Rights Reserved

Digitized by Google

Mr. Senrin Kirigaya, a unique artist of Buddhistic painting in Japan, who had long studied in India the frescoes of Ajunta Caves, is now on his travel to Warsaw, the capital of Poland, where he is invited as a national guest and is to exhibit over 100 of his works. Lady Banasinski, wife of Dr. Banasinski of the Polish Legation at Tokyo, who already exhibited her Japanese pictures in her homeland, is one of Mr. Kirigaya's disciples. (The artist is seen in the car leaving Tokyo Station.)

Two young girls, Misses Nina and Anna, from Yalut Island, the South Seas under Japanese Mandate, returning home with honours after years' study of music in Tokyo.

Digitized by Google

Dr. S. G. do Amaral, new Brazilian Ambassador to Japan.

Digitized by Google

THE JAPAN MAGAZINE

A REPRESENTATIVE MONTHLY OF THINGS JAPANESE

Vol. XXI JULY 1931 No. 10

CURRENT JAPANESE THOUGHT

By THE EDITOR

Prince and Princess Takamatsu

The safe return of their Imperial Highnesses, Prince and Princess Takamatsu, to Japan in June was naturally an occasion of universal rejoicing. The Prince and Princess had spent a year in travelling through Europe, Great Britain, Canada and the United States. In every country they were cordially welcomed and entertained by sovereigns, governments and people alike, and must have had a very enjoyable experience. The most important aspect of the Imperial tour was that the people of the Western world were enabled to see for themselves just what an Imperial Prince and Princess of Japan is like, and to know that they are very charming. On every occasion of her public appearance the beautiful Princess was the cynosure of all eyes, while the Prince himself must have appeared to all the very gallant gentleman that he is; and the worthy heir presumptive to the Imperial Throne. It is the earnest wish of the people of Japan that the gracious personalities of their Prince and Princess have done much to cement the friendly relations that have obtained between Japan and the leading nations of the Western world.

"A Sense of Injustice"

After leaving Japan, in a speech delivered at Honolulu, the Honourable W. J. Castle, made the following significant remarks: "Of course, one subject which I did not talk about in Japan was the immigration question. After all, I was the American Ambassador. The law was a law and it was not up to me, in Japan, to criticize the law. We did not discuss it. The only time I came near to discussing it was to say that I felt very strongly that the new atmosphere of good-will which would be created as the result of the London Conference would make it much easier to straighten out the misunderstanding

Digitized by Google

that now exists. Now that I am at home, I can say I hate that law! It was unfair, it seemed to me, in every way. I could not say it there. I do think that the success of the London Conference is the last thing necessary to put over a change in the law. One thing about that immigration question, one of the things I know, is the superb forbearance of the Japanese on the subject. I never heard any criticism; you could feel an underlying sense of injustice, but never any outspoken criticism. All they would say was immigration is a national matter; we have no right to say anything'. But one saw they felt really hurt." Japan has no doubt that if the American people once begin to feel the truth of the situation, as Mr. Castle undoubtedly did, they will see that the injustice is removed.

Responsibility for Economic Depression

The *Jiji Shimpo* seems to think that America must in large measure be held responsible for the continued world-wide economic depression. The nations are suffering from unprecedented indebtedness, due to war and the fall in prices rendered worse by over-production in industry and agriculture. In this ordeal of the nations America is the chief creditor, but she refuses to reconsider adjustments of the debts owed to her, in accordance with the changed condition of the world. Ordinary indebtedness of the nations to America now totals about 20 billion yen, while war debts alone amount to 44 billion yen, including the interest she is to receive during the next 62 years, amounting to 711,000,000 yen a year. By strictly collecting both interest and principal on this enormous debt America is depressing the debtor nations and seriously impairing their economic power. At the same time America is piling up tariffs in aid of domestic industries. With her vast inherent prosperity and her gigantic accumulation of gold, America ought to adopt a more liberal tariff policy and do more to relieve the nations labouring under financial depression. But so long as America's debtors expend so much of their revenue on unproductive enterprises like armamental equipment and preparation for war, there is a strong inclination to divert revenue to the payment of debts. America feels that to cancel debts for warlike nations is only another way of encouraging war. The only way to convince some nations of the futility of war is to "rub in" the costliness of human slaughter.

The Kinema Danger

As regards the kinema, Japan is as much up against its moral dangers, as are Europe and America. The moving picture hall is a universal educator, but only too often its influence is more im-

Digitized by Google

moral than otherwise. In Japan the evil is two-fold in effect: it gives a low idea of western civilization, which reacts unfavourably on young Japan; and it shows Japanese youth how to play with the fires of sin and yet hope to escape the wages thereof, a false hope that has led many a lad and lass to ruin. There is no doubt that films which libel mankind and deceive innocent youth should be prohibited. They are as dangerous as poison. The film censor in Japan is strictly against any scenes that are decidedly demoralizing; but if western film-makers like to libel their own civilization and disgrace their country in Japanese eyes, and in the eyes of Asia generally, it is not for the Japanese censor to correct them, nor protect them. Indeed he is not likely to feel other than proud that his own civilization is so distinctly superior to that exhibited by the foreign films; and lets a good deal pass with the idea that so low a view of western civilization may enable the Japanese to appreciate their own all the more. It is but natural to tolerate what enhances one's belief in one's own superiority. But western nations can only blame themselves if India, China and Japan do not entertain the same respect for western nations as they did a few years ago. If western civilization can tolerate anything like what some of the foreign films depict, it is but a natural inference that it is inferior to Oriental civilization.

Japan not Militaristic

In an able and distinctive article on Japan in the American *Review of Reviews* for January, Dr. Samuel McCune Lindsay, of Columbia University, gives some interesting impressions of his visit to Japan. He affirms that Japan "is qualified by every known test to stand as an equal in the community of nations. But Japan, able and willing to do her part in the development of civilization and in the work of the world, needs the cooperation of other countries in the solution of her problems. One thing is certain. She will seek and find the help she needs by peaceful means. Japan is not militaristic. We saw fewer soldiers, and, in every walk of life, less evidence of a militaristic spirit, than anywhere else in our tour around the world. When we Americans generally know and appreciate the fact, we will realize with shame and contrition what a mortal wound we needlessly inflicted upon a highly sensitive and sympathetic people (than whom we have no better friend) when in our immigration legislation of recent years we denied them a quota basis. They did not want or ask for the admission of the few hundred Japanese labourers that would have been entitled to enter every year, if Japan had been treated with the same justice we meted out to other civilized

Digitized by Google

peoples. In fact none would have been allowed to come while not wanted. The Japanese justly resent our act and cannot forget it. One of the most distinguished scholars in Japan, a member of the House of Peers, renowned for leadership and public service, has often visited our country. He knows it well and is widely known here and highly respected. He is reported to have said that until this wrong to his people is righted, he could not set foot again on American soil." The above remarks from so eminent an authority are highly significant of the best thought in the United States; and so long as the leading Americans thus think, Japan has every hope that the discrimination against her nationals in the American immigration quota will soon be removed.

Future of Silk

The Japanese press is somewhat pessimistic as to the future of silk. The output of cocoons this year threatens to be even in greater excess than last year, while demand has shown no signs of revival. The sericulturists are asking the Government to advance them some 60,000,000 yen, secured by the cocoon crop, to enable them to hold their output until prices rise; but, as cocoons cannot be kept in good condition for longer that one year, the press warns the Government that the proposal is unsound. It would be better to advance the funds to silk reelers who would then be in a position to buy the cocoons as needed. The situation is rendered more serious by an undue scarcity of mulberry leaves, which will increase the cost of cocoon output; and, with the present low price of silk, this increase cannot be endured. Some newspapers advocate the nationalization of the silk industry as the only way of saving the situation. It is contended that better prices cannot be expected for silk unless the quality is greatly improved; and this cannot be done without improving the cocoons. The Japanese silk market depends very much on the demand in the United States, where, however, there does not as yet appear any sign of a change for the better in regard to silk. In Japan there are more than 200,000 bales of raw silk awaiting sale; and dealers are not disposed to encourage the present rate of output unless there is some hope of disposing of the stock on hand. The fear is that if due precaution is not taken by the Government, there may be a panic in the silk industry, when many of the producers would have to face irretrievable ruin. Japanese silk is undoubtedly the best in the world, when variety, quality and price are taken into consideration; and it is remarkable that the demand should not be greater for what makes such beautiful dresses for ladies and fine shirts for men. In dress, shirt and pyjama

Digitized by Google

materials the Japanese shops display wonderful patterns at about the same prices that similar patterns in cotton cost in Europe and America.

Japan More Sober

The *Japan Times* thinks that, for economic, social and even romantic reasons, Japan is gradually becoming a more sober nation. It cannot, of course, be said that Japan was ever as great a drinking nation as the countries of Europe and America; but it was quite the fashion, for centuries, to imbibe too much at feasts, and during the festive season; and some were disposed to boast of their capacity for drink and to win admirers. But to-day this has all changed. The inebriate finds no admirers now; indeed, he is rather despised or pitied; and, if under a master, apt to lose his job. Even the girls in the dance-halls will fight shy of a partner the worse of liquor or ordoriferous of it, which is quite a contrast to the good old days when the guest, with his *saké* bottle, was wont to drink freely and care nothing about what the *geisha* thought of it. Economic no less than social and romantic considerations also influence the cause of temperance; for the cost of living is now rather high to afford much for alcoholic luxuries. If it be said that Japan is producing larger quantities of alcoholic beverages than ever, the answer is that she is also producing more people that ever, the population being now 20 millions more than it was 25 years ago. But, as a matter of fact, the production of liquor is about stationary. The important thing is that the mind of the nation has changed toward drink and drinking habits; and this will eventually do more to promote temperance than prohibition would. The change is due largely to the influence of education, increase of intelligence and complexity of modern civilization which permits no lapse from efficiency.

Digitized by Google

JAPAN'S SUMMER TIME

How to be Happy Though Hot

By Y. Azuma

THE Japanese summer is extremely hot, and the heat seems all the more severe to Europeans owing to the humidity of the atmosphere, which leaves the body less able to resist the high temperature. Spring and autumn are delightfully temperate and salubrious; and these are the seasons when tourists abound in the land; but the summer is no less pleasant if one knows where to go and what to do; for Japan, like California, has all the climates and temperatures of the world, even in July and August, if one cares to find them. In the higher altitudes, especially the Alpine regions, snow is found even in midsummer; and so a descending temperature may be found all the way down to the hot and humid plains.

Summer weather begins about the middle of June, but the real heat does not be felt until early in July, and continues steadily until about the middle of September. June, however, is usually the rainy season; and although it does not rain every day, the cloudy sky keeps the air humid, so that mold grows on one's books and boots, while the body feels unpleasantly sticky. Everything has to be frequently well aired on the sunnier days, if mold is to be kept down. As soon as the rainy season ends the hot days ensue, and then those who can afford it try to get away to the hills or the seaside.

WHEN the rain is over and gone, and the voice of the *semi* (cicada) is heard in the land, a breathless heat settles down on existence, the nights being almost as sultry and close as the days. But by the sea or in the hills the atmosphere is more rarefied and pleasant. Of course it is only the more leisured class that can thus wholly escape the summer heat: the upper classes, the higher government officials, the diplomatic corps, educationists, the better off merchants and some missionaries, get from one to two months in the cooler resorts during summer.

The most favoured resorts for Tokyo people are Kamakura, Dzushi, Hayama, Oiso, Odawara, by the sea; and for mountain resorts, Miyanoshita, Hakone, Atami, Nikko, Chuzenji and Matsushima (also by the sea) are popular. There are numerous resorts in the south too, such as Suma near Kobe, Miyajima, Beppu and other lovely places, like Unsen. Of course it is not absolutely necessary to go to summer resorts in the heat of the Jap-

Digitized by Google

anese summer. Many foreigners stay the whole season in Tokyo and Yokohama, especially business men who cannot afford to be away for longer than a week-end now and then. With such modern office equipment as electric fans and airy rooms the atmosphere is not nearly so oppressive as in former times. Indeed, for those who happen to be visiting Japan in summer, that will be found the best season to see the Japanese as they are. It is then that everything is open; and people are much more interesting in their moments of relaxation than at other times.

The picturesque life that all winter has been shut up behind the *shoji* now opens out to the public like flowers in spring. The *shoji* are pushed back all day, revealing the pretty Japanese interiors with their refreshing lack of detail, which the foreigner at other seasons cannot see. The Japanese rooms are restful to the eye in this half-light, and the illusion of coolness is heightened by the designs, often of snow-capped mountains or foaming breakers or dashing waterfalls.

THE hotter portion of the day, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., can be used for *siesta*, or reading under an electric fan while lounging in negligé or no attire; and then in the late afternoon one strolls out, clad or semi-clad in the gauziest of fabrics, and wanders up and down the mysterious streets, seeing life as it is. As one passes the houses, all open to the air, and the eye, the ubiquitous wind-bell is heard tinkling to every vagrant zephyr, while the *semi's* harsher tones sizzle in the trees and house-eaves. On every side iced drinks are offered, and clamored for by thirsty pedestrians.

Nor are the shops less fascinating in summer than at other seasons; indeed they are particularly happy in the effects they produce. Little stands for drinks or papers here and there along a sweltering street, like veritable oases, invite one under a canopy of rustling willow boughs to peruse the dailies or refresh one's throat, meanwhile contemplating the beauty of the morning-glory trailing up the lattice behind. The drapery shops are a world of wondrous and fascinating colours; all the summer *kimono* have designs from Nature, some combination of birds and blossoms, according to tradition; and in every variety of tint, greens, purples, blue and gold, and marvellous blends that send through the soul a thrill of harmony and peace. Surely no summer dresses can be so really beautiful as these silken gauzy creations, so charming to the eye and so comfortable for the season. Many of the patterns are in bamboo, cherry or plum; but peonies, camelias and crysanthemums also abound. The Japanese have fashions in colours where we have them in designs or patterns of clothes; and

Digitized by Google

one season a certain colour will be popular, and another season fancies another colour. Among the more beautiful figures on the material are dragonflies poised over bamboo leaves or on a gorgeous hydrangea.

In the centre of some shops stand huge blocks of ice cooling the atmosphere; other blocks of ice are seen like bergs floating in ponds of water-lilies. One pauses to watch the crowds holding their handkerchiefs to the ice and then against their flaming cheeks, with thankful exclamations of relief.

AMONG the more interesting diversions for the foreign visitor is to study the inventiveness of the Japanese in dressing to suit the temperature. The problem of distress from heat is solved much more simply than in western countries, without altogether defying the law against nudity. The most remarkable and even alarming of summer costumes are seen, all the way from the thinnest of silk or linen, often with a very wide mesh, to B.V.Ds of the same material, the latter sometimes facing a beret and a pair of big rubber topboots. The coolest of summer garments, especially for the aged, is the old-fashioned nightgown with ruffles at the wrist and neck. Old men look particularly happy in them. In matters of nudity the Japanese are quite sensible; they see but do not observe the persons of others, or what is none of their business. A gentleman may be seen walking from his house to his taxi in frock coat and top hat, which he is seen again to remove in the car, and put on again as he emerges to his office or other public place. One has to deal with the heat as best one can, and make it as bearable as possible. In the country places there is less scruple; and the entire village enjoys bathing together.

The summer evenings are the most pleasant part of the day, especially for seeing something of the inner life of the Japanese. A popular diversion among those who can afford it is to dine at a restaurant, one overlooking a beautiful garden, or the river, is preferable, with magic casements opening on moonlit waters, through which one can gaze on night life along the river where pleasure boats are always moving up and down to the music of the *samisen* and the voice of the *geisha*.

One should arrive at the teahouse just about sunset when the sky is streaked with crimson and gold, and shadow fingers are reaching over the streets or along the balconies through the trees beside the pond or stream. Surrounded by such beauty the temperature is almost forgotten; the witchery of the evening is supreme. Your Japanese friends will want to take you to some modern eating place in Western style, but don't be induced to forget the need of dining in native

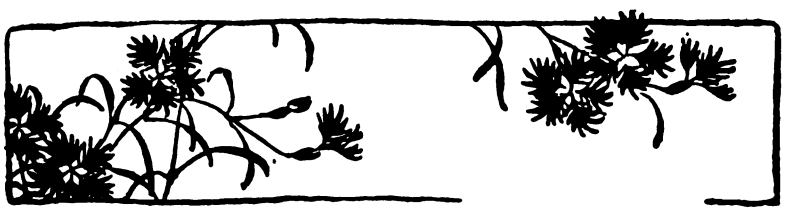
Digitized by Google

fashion at one of the older establishments, if you wish to learn something of the real Japan.

NIGHT life in the Capital, even in the heat of summer, is fascinating to the foreigner. To stand in the heart of Tokyo at sunset, and gaze from Marunouchi across the moat to the Imperial Palace is to get a glimpse of old Japan. One there turns from the imposing array of modern structures and keeps one's eye on Nijubashi, and the old moats with their emerald green waters reflecting the contorted shapes of ancient pines, as they have done through the centuries past. Beyond are the ancient turf-clad ramparts with their snow-white battlements just as the Tokugawa shoguns saw them centuries ago. It is then that one feels the magic of the Sacred Treasures: the Jewel, the Sword and the Mirror, handed down from the gods to the successive rulers of Japan through more than two thousand five hundred years. It is the old Japan which symbolizes a youth that never ages, instinct with permanent youth.

Nothing can be more gay than the night life in Tokyo even in summer. The greater thoroughfares are a blaze of electric signs, some of them wonderful in invention and effect. The theatres offer lighter fare than in the regular season. The innumerable cafés and restaurants are crowded with youth and beauty. Hotels and roofgardens echo with the jargon of foreign languages from every country in the world. Outside the hooting of taxis is often deafening, as they parade up and down hunting fares.

By 11 o'clock things begin to quieten down, for the Japanese do not keep very late hours. Indeed, by midnight the city is all hushed to silence; and not a soul stirring in that humid electric glow until the plaintive note of the *soba* (a kind of macaroni) vendor is heard towards dawn, crying out to a hungry yet apparently sleeping world. Then the first rays of the rising sun begin to shoot across the East; and nowhere is the rising sun so majestic as in Japan. The vast majority of the population are awake to see the sun rise, and bow to the orb of day in sincere worship, with a gentle glad clap of the hands, as they bow to the East.



Digitized by Google

JAPAN'S CHINA POLICY

By

Professor SHIGEO SUYEHIRO

(Kyoto Imperial University)

IN May 1915 while the World War was in process, Japan induced China to enter into a treaty regarding South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia by which Japan acquired the right to lease territory and to erect buildings for purposes of commerce, industry and agricultural enterprise. Japan's motive in obtaining these lease rights from China was definite and specific. When Japanese immigration was barred in the United States on the abrogation of the Lansing-Ishii Agreement, known as the Gentlemen's Agreement, Japan saw the wisdom of acquiescing in the suggestion of her foreign Minister, Marquis Komura, and diverting Japanese immigration toward Manchuria and Mongolia and Korea, instead of letting her nationals try to enter the United States where they were undesirable. The Okuma Cabinet on coming into office in January, 1915, found this policy difficult, owing to the very restricted territory under Japan's control in China; it was just a narrow strip on either side of the South Manchuria Railway, which was unequal to accomodating the immigrants from Japan. The Government, therefore, availed itself of the occasion afforded by the European War to press China for lease rights in Manchuria and Mongolia; the demands were acceded to as regards Manchuria, but refused in regard to Mongolia.

In the treaty with China the words "South Manchuria" appear to be rather ambiguous in regard to geographical demarcation, something like the expressions *Kwanto* (East) and *Kwansai* (West) in Japan proper. Even in regard to the rights of lease the terms are too ambiguous. What then was the motive for such ambiguity? We ask for the motive, because the Foreign Office in Tokyo is composed of men too astute to have overlooked this danger; the officials undoubtedly considered it of some advantage to Japan to leave the provisions of the treaty thus ambiguous as then the terms might be pressed to mean greater advantages as time went on.

THIS now proves to be a serious miscalculation on Japan's part. Although Japan was in a position to enforce her rights on China at the time the treaty was demanded, the position in the Far East changed very soon

Digitized by Google

afterwards, and Japan ceased to be able to threaten China in any such manner as when she demanded the treaty by an ultimatum. Japan also came under the misrepresentation of some Western nations as the Germany of the Far East, and was suspected, especially in the United States, of entertaining agressive intentions towards China, and was made the focus of bitter criticism, necessitating greater reserve in regard to China.

In these circumstances it is but natural that the Chinese authorities have maintained an attitude of suspicion toward Japan, and have shown no serious desire to negotiate with Tokyo, although the Japanese Government has urged China repeatedly to consult in clearing up the ambiguities of the treaty alluded to. The result is that, though Japan is enititled to righs of lease in Manchuria, she has so far been unable to realize these rights, and thus has been deprived of the benefits she desired.

Now that China is very anxious to abolish foreign consular jurisdiction and free herself from alien extrality; Japan is disposed to take advantage of the situation to push this question of treaty rights to a satisfactory conclusion, and have her lease rights in South Manchuria confirmed. But it is very doubtful whether Japan will succeed in attaining this object. The fact is that Japan is now suffering from the disadvantage of having presented to China the notorious 21 demands and the ensuing ultimatum of 1915. Much wiser would it have been to have asked for reasonable concessions and to have obtained them in the usual way; and thus diplomatic relations with China would have been more satisfactory than they are to-day. At any rate the manner in which the Okuma Cabinet on 1915 attempted to deal with China has brought a curse upon our relations with that country, from which it will take us some time to recover.

NOT only has Japan failed in regard to her lease rights in Manchuria, but also in regard to her railway rights in Manchuria where China is promoting a policy of parallel lines to detract from the progress of the South Manchuria Railway. Negotiations on this question are also at a deadlock. In the secret protocol accessory to the Sino-Japanese Convention in regard to Manchuria, signed in December, 1915, it is agreed that, " with a view to safeguarding the rights and interests of the South Manchuria Railway, China shall not lay any trunk line of her own railways in the neighbourhood of the South Manchuria Railway and parallel to it, or such line as will hinder the latter's interests in any way ". This concession was obtained after Japan had defeated Germany in the Far East and was in a position to dominate any conference

Digitized by Google

for negotiations; and naturally these terms can be continued only so long as Japan is in a position to dominate the situation, a circumstance that no longer exists.

China has obviously decided to follow her own policy in regard to railway lines in Manchuria, without reference to the interests of Japan or of the South Manchuria Railway. Not only so, but China is assuming rather an offensive attitude towards Japan, and stubbornly advancing her own interests without regard to Japan's rights and interests in Manchuria. China completed the Tah-tung line in November, 1927; and the Chi hai line was opened to traffic in May, 1929; and, having got away with this aggression, China is now said to be contemplating the construction of a new railway line between Tungliao and Taonan; and Japan seems unable to do anything to stop this policy. As the line in question was necessary to the the completion of the Tah-tung line it was useless for Japan to protest against the action of China. Then why was our Government so short-sighted as to make such a protest?

THE real cause of Japan's failure in negotiations and treaties with China lies in the lack of political unity among parties at home. Japan's policy in China is always at the mercy of these political parties, Seiyukai or Minseito; so that our China policy is never stable or solid; and such instability has no hope of success in facing the skilled diplomacy of China, nor indeed the still more skilled diplomacy of the Soviet. This is what has put Japan's rights in Manchuria, and the South Manchuria Railway itself, in the present state of jeopardy.

Another cause of our failure in relations with China is the lack of able and experienced officicials in the department of Chinese Affairs at the Tokyo Foreign Office. Up to the present that very important department has been in the hands of young diplomatists as a sort of training ground; these immature officials pass on in succession to higher posts, and the department is thus never in charge of men long enough there to know what they are doing. The Government has thus made the mistake of not having our most mature and experienced officials in the department of Chinese Affairs in the Foreign Office. The most effective means of reforming our methods of dealing with China is to offer better treatment to the diplomatic and consular officials assigned to China, so that they may be content to remain in office and not be induced to seek posts under the Government in the gayer and more highly civilized countries of Europe and America.

Digitized by Google

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF JAPAN'S FOREST AND SEA SCENES

By Dr. S. HONDA

JAPAN being sea-girt, is rich in coast line, where one can enjoy uncommonly fine coastwise scenes of great variety. Not merely the *Nippon-Sankei* (the Three Most Beautiful Views in Japan), but the *Muroto-zaki*, selected recently as one of the *Nippon-Hakkei* (the Eight Most Beautiful Views in Japan), Kamakura, Enoshima, Senbon-Matsubara, Mio-no-Matsubara, the Toba Bay, the Murozumi Bay, Naruto, Yashima, Mio-ga-seki, Kinkazan, Nanatsu-gama, Tatsugushi, the Zoga-saki, etc. are all excellent coastwise views.

As Japan is a mountainous and a great volcanic country, it has plenty of fine mountain views connected with volcanoes. Mount Fuji is a quiescent volcano; and other famous volcanoes are Nikko, Hakone, Aso, Kirishima, Onsen, Bantai, Asama, Shirane, Akagi, Haruna and Oyama Mountains. Everywhere in these volcanic districts there are characteristic falls, lakes and hot-springs, of very attractive types.

OBSERVING Japanese scenes topographically, it may be said that coast wise and volcanic views feature most prominently among them. Sea-coasts and mountains are, however, simply frames for the fine views; for almost all cases, the frames do not alone constitute fine views. Myogi Mountains and Yabakei, famous their strange rock, formations owe a great deal of their beauty to the red pines growing on the rocks, or the broad-leaved trees surrounding the bases. Matsushima, Senbon-Matsubara and Mio-no-Matsubara would be tasteless, if the pine forests were taken away. If the Nikko and Hakoné Mountains were deprived of their forests, they would be mere wastes! Trees, and more especially forests, ornament the frames into fine views. As Japan is situated in the southern part of the temperate zone, there is a great rainfall, which invigorates the growth of trees. Moreover, these trees are of many different species. In total area, too, Japan stands prominent as a forest country in the world. These forests greatly diversify the scenic aspect of the views. Viewed from one aspect, the forests filling frames of the above mentioned beautiful spots may be said to be the most important of the factors making the characteristic features of Japanese scenes.

Digitized by Google

THE Japanese mainland, Shikoku and Kyushu, to which belong most of Japan's famous views, are generally in the warm and temperate zones horizontally, when observed from the Japanese forestry floral zone. The forests in the southern half of the mainland, and in Shikoku and Kyushu, belong to the warm zone, and their characteristic trees are oak, camphor, camellia, Japanese bracelet-trees, other ever-green broad-leaved trees and bamboo plants; and on the sea-coast sands, with strong sea breezes, grow black pines. The beautiful black pine forests forming fine views as at Yashima, Shodoshima, Itsukushima and other sea-coast places, and the elegance of the evergreen broad-leaved forests at the bases of Aso, Kirihima, Onsen, Oyama and other mountains, are characteristic of the warm zone.

The northern half of the mainland belongs to the temperate zone, and its characteristic trees are beech, Quercus Glandulifera, horse chestnut, ash, walnut, elm, maple and other deciduous trees. The beauty of autumnal tints in Nikko, Hakone and Akagi Mountains cannot be seen anywhere but in the temperate zone. Cedar, Japan cypress, red pine and other coniferous trees, are widely distributed over the two zones, forming a lovely back ground to the beautiful blossoms in spring, and of the fine autumnal tints producing characteristically elegant views everywhere in the country.

LONGITUDINALLY Ou District belongs to the frigid zone for about 1,000 metres, Kwanto District for about 1,500 metres and Shikoku for about 1,800 metries. There are growing in all these districts such coniferous trees proper to the zone as fir, silver-fir, Aomori fir, etc.; and somewhere in them larch, mountainalder, mountain ash, Mongolia oak, etc., presenting views characteristic of high mountains.

Forests and fine scenes cannot be separated; and the utmost importance is attached to forests more particularly in connection with mountainous views. These forerts must be treated and fostered as ornamental forests purely from an aesthetic rather than from an economic viewpoint, going a step forward from the present objects for profit, and protection by prohibition of felling. The necessity of these forests will be felt more and more keenly as the fine views are looked upon as more and more important.

Recently there has been a tendency to use forests for the sake of health by such means as camping, forest schools, forest villas and forest walks. The time has passed when forests were used and fostered principally for getting lumber and charcoal materials, or keeping the sources of water good, and for preventing denudation and floods; and to-day the primary object for the use

Digitized by Google

of forests must be to preserve the health of the masses. There will be natural forests sooner or later mainly for this purpose.

Let me then enumerate what makes Japanese fine views most characteristically different from those in Europe and America!

1. Japan is rich in volcanic and coastwise beautiful scenes.

2. Japan is very variable in natural features and plants, and its scenes are moderate in propotion and not too large, as in Europe, America and especially in South America, where most of the fine scenes are on too big a scale, and look dull.

3. All Japanese fine scenes possess something attractive or familiar. In Europe and North America they are too dried in summer, although they suit open air life, such as camping.

4. In Japan, the water is clear and cool; and there is an abundance of torrents, rapids, and falls. In China and North and South America there are not many rapids and torrents, and not a few rivers are muddy.

5. In Japan, flowers, blossoms and autumnal tints are very bright in colour, and cherry-blossoms and autumnal tints have a special beauty, unique in the world. In India and other tropical countries, most flowers and blossoms are too heavy; while in Europe and America, they are rather too light. But most Japanese flowers and blossoms are moderate in colour.

6. In Japan, there is a great variety of forest, flowering and garden plants. Probably in this, Japan is matchless in the world, having such typical flowering plants as the azalea, the Japan quince, the plum, the peach, the peony, the white-flowered peony, the lotus, the waterlily, the chrysanthemum, etc.

7. More particularly, the scenery of Southern Japan has much of the southern atmosphere and of plants of the subtropical zone.

8. Mountain cherries or autumnal tints, backed with green pine or cedars, present a very bright scene, symbolical of the Japanese national character.

Digitized by Google

ORIENTAL PAINTING

By

H. Exc. Wang Yung-pao,
Chinese Minister to Japan

THE pictorial art of the East, as generally treated, covers so wide a scope that I must, for want of space, deal with it here in its narrower significance, and make a brief attempt simply to compare it with the painting of the West. As Oriental criticism of pictorial art is somewhat different from that prevailing in the Occident, it may be well to begin with a comparison of these respective methods of criticism.

Criticism East and West

It seems to me that Western criticism of painting in general has of late been tending in the direction of Oriental criticism. In the distant past, however, it was the habit of European and American art critics to indulge in laughably frivolous and superficial remarks at the expense of Oriental painters. Even Lord Tennyson, then Poet Laureate of England, did not think it beneath him to refer to Oriental painting as 'grotesque;' but nevertheless the poet had sufficient appreciation of art to be able to place the splendour of painting in general on the same level as the art of music. Yet how shallow his conception of Oriental art was! Other noted men of Europe considered painting and poetry to be kindred arts. A poet, above all others, ought to be able to appreciate pictorial art at its full value, no matter to what school the artist belongs. The fact remains, however, that men of rare genius like Tennyson failed to appreciate adequately the *Nan-ga* painters of the Southern School, considering them simply 'grotesque.' If this was all that the greatest could see in our painting, what could be expected of the rank and file of Occidental opinion in regard to Oriental painting?

What then is the reason for this Occidental incapacity for criticism of Oriental art? In my humble opinion, it is to be ascribed mainly to the undeveloped state of Western landscape art, the art in which our *Nan-ga* painters most excelled. It is no exaggeration to say that in landscape art the Oriental painters are the most advanced in the world, notwithstanding the contrary conviction of Occidental realism. Chronologically backward in this form of fine art, the Western mind is unable to appreciate painting more advanced than its own, and so can form no correct conception of Oriental pictures.

Digitized by Google

An Example

How much Occidental criticism has to learn in regard to Oriental painting may be illustrated by a practical example. I should say, first of all, that the Occidental mind has to go through certain stages of development and appreciation in regard to landscape art; the advance should be from bright coloured pictures to the more quiet and subdued black and white, the manner of the *Nan-ga* school. Take the case of a foreigner visiting Tokyo, for instance: he may have some previous knowledge of *Nishikiyé*, the colour prints reproduced from the masterpieces of the Tokugawa era; and if he spies one of these prints, while strolling about the streets, he stops and buys it. But if he next comes upon a bit of *Nan-ga* painting, he fails to appreciate the work in black and white, and so turns from it as of little value. His taste is for bright colours only, and the quieter tones of the *Nan-ga* painters do not attract him in the least. Hence the popularity of the colour print in Europe and America, and the neglect of the real pictorial art of the Orient. Some twenty years ago the craze for *Ukiyoyé* prints was at its height, some of them commanding as much as ten thousand yen each, while fifteen hundred or two thousand yen was a common figure asked and promptly received. These prices were created by foreigners. Of the 3,0008 examples of Oriental painting in the Boston Museum, these colour prints easily predominate, and represent the main conception of Oriental painting in the Western mind.

H. Exc. Wang Yung-pao, Chinese Minister to Japan

Western people will never be able to appreciate real Oriental painting until their minds are able to advance from gaudy colour prints to the more refined

Digitized by Google

art of the *Nan-ga* School, and thus learn the true art of the landscape painter. Fenollosa, the noted American art critic and connoisseur, wrote a history of Oriental painting, in the early part of the Meiji era, while Dr. Anderson, a man of shrewd artistic discernment, dealt with Japanese painting in a voluminous work. Both of them had lived in Japan as teachers, the one in art and the other in medicine; and it was through their enthusiasm that *Nishikiyé* art came to find unqualified appreciation abroad. This is the principal reason why Occidentals devote more attention to this form of Oriental art, and neglect our true landscape art. It was this mistake that led so great a mind as Tennyson's astray in reference to Oriental art. Then this insufficient knowledge of Oriental art in Europe and America combines with the general backwardness of landscape art there to leave the Western mind unable to appreciate *Nan-ga* art at its true value. The fact is that, in regard to landscape painting, Japan and China were as advanced four hundred years ago as Western landscape painting art is today.

Chinese Painting

The founder of the *Nan-ga* school of art lived in ancient China about the 5th century A. D.; his name was Tsung Ping, but was known as Shao-wen, and was a prominent figure in art circles, according to the *Annals of Master Painters* written by Chang Yen-yuan in the Tang régime. In reference to him, Chang says:

> "Now that he is afflicted with the infirmities of old age, Tsung is hardly able to trip about the mountains and rivers, as he used to; and so he is content to paint the scenes he was wont to visit, hangs those pictures on the walls and enjoys them day and night."

Such was the worthy founder of this great school of landscape art, that has had such a vast effect upon the landscape painting of China and Japan. The school was distinguished for its exclusion of human figures in preference for scenes from Nature only, while contemporary artists were more inclined to portraiture and scenes of social life, with Nature only as a background. Later, in the Tang and Sui Periods, figure-painting continued to dominate pictorial art, with mountain and river scenes as a background; but the *Nan-ga* artists were not discouraged and continued to take root. Among the famous artists of this school who ranked with the founder was Wang Wei, known as Huan-wen, who travelled widely in the country, sketching the scenery that took his fancy. Coming down to the Liang Dynasty we find Hsiao P'en was an illustrious painter of the landscape school; his work had the distinction of extinguishing distance; it was said of his pictures that scenes a

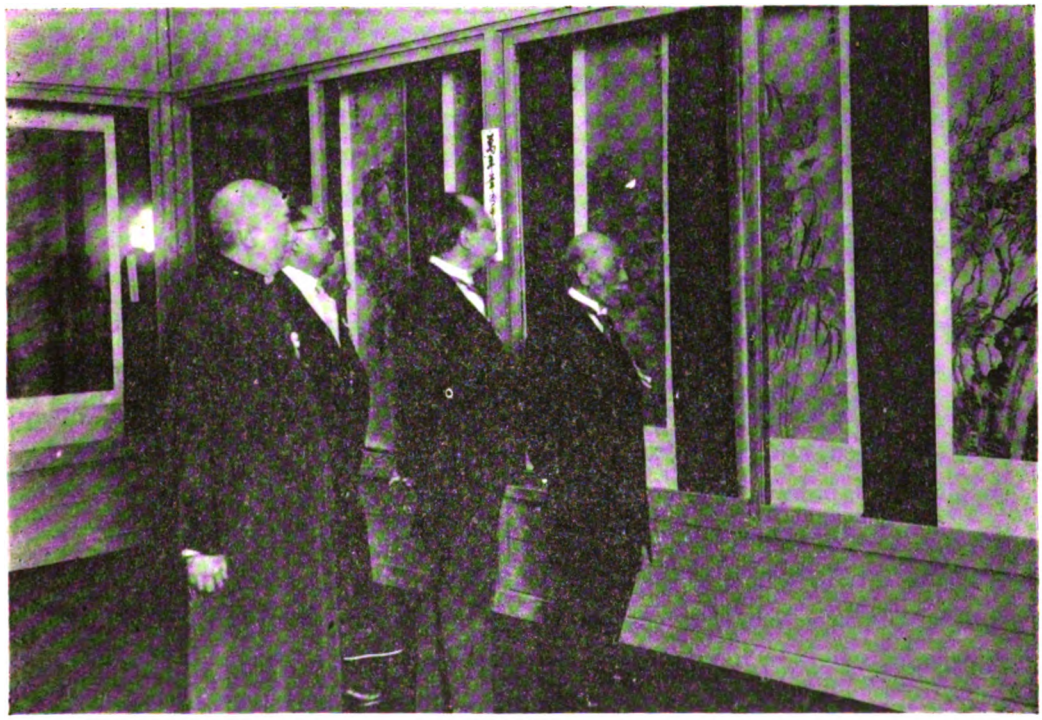
Digitized by Google

thousand miles away seemed only a stone's throw distant. These three masters are venerated as the fathers of the *Nan-ga* school throughout the Chinese Republic.

Occidental Art

Turning to the art of Western countries we may well ask what masters of landscape they have produced? The painter who did most to produce pictures independent of human figures was Constable who hang his achievement in his studio. A friend who happened to drop into the studio after the picture had been finished naturally remarked: "What a novel idea! You ought to exhibit it at the International Exhibition to be held in Paris soon. It would doubtless attract much attention, as the world likes novelties." Constable declined on the score of expense, but the friend offered to defray the cost; and the picture appeared at the Exhibition, astonished all the French artists, and became the sensation of the day.

Thus, what was common to the landscape art of China for centuries is of but comparatively recent appearance in Europe. It is not easy for the European mind to realize what it means to have this difference of fourteen hundred years in the development of landscape art. But when will Europe be



The Japan-China Art Exhibition in Ueno Park, Tokyo. Mr. Wang Iu-ting, the noted Chinese painter (extreme left); Count Keigo Kiyoura, President of the Japan-China Association (right); Mr. Wang Yung-pao, Chinese Minister to Japan (next to Count Kiyoura).

Digitized by Google

ready to realize it, and take a lesson rom the more advanced landscape art of China?

In the matter of art criticism, too, China is much more advanced than Europe and the West; for criticism began with us centuries before it was thought of in the West. In that priceless work of Kuo Juo-hsu, *Annals of National Painting*, we have the art defined as *shin'in* or 'the mind's impression,' or simply expression. Now, expressionism is but a recent growth in European art; in China it has been a dominant motive for four hundred years. It may be remembered that Kandenski, comparing painting to music, concluded that Nature should not be depicted as it is; the value of a picture lies in the personality and skill of the artist. Doubtless he meant to sneer at those who merely sketch from life and Nature. Novel to European ears, this view is familiar to China, and has been for centuries held. As Su Tung-p'o, a celebrated Chinese poet, said, even a small child is capable of criticizing a picture as to accuracy of form, but expression of the artist's personality is another and a different matter. And thus only at the eleventh hour has the West come to think about the importance of individual expression in pictorial art.

Dominance of Science

The Occidental mind is dominated by scientific ideas, and the worship of material things. Two and two make four or nothing. In the Orient, on the contrary, one may make ten or a hundred by adding two to two, science notwithstanding. It was in defiance of science that art criticism reached so advanced a development in China, as many as three hundred notable books being written on the subject; such as *Criticism of Landscape Painting*, *Mountain and Stream*, *Collected Criticisms of Painting* by Shih Tao, almost a philosophy of the art; and numerous other volumes. We find Hegel declaring that fine art has its own philosophy, hundreds of years after the Chinese work on this subject appeared. In the last seventy years schools of art in Europe have sprung up like mushrooms: the Impressionist, the Post-impressionist, the Cubist, the Futurist, and many others; and it is supposed that this exuberance has been incited by the influence of Oriental art. Be that as it may, there is no doubt that art discussion in Europe is beginning to resemble very much what has been going on in the Orient for centuries; and hence, in this respect, at least, the East may justly boast of leading the West.

But some diverting notions of Oriental art still obtain in the West. The Western mind cannot get away from the paint brush and the ink-stick as essential to art. At an exhibition of

Digitized by Google

Oriental art in Paris a few years ago, a member of the judging committee made a special report on the use of the brush in Oriental painting, especially on how it was handled. His conclusion was that as the Orientals were dextrous in the manipulation of chopsticks in eating, even from infancy, their handling of paint brushes was agile beyond the imagination of the Western mind, and this amazing peculiarity of the Chinese and Japanese should be carefully studied. Here again, we have the aggressive intrusion of science into art, a very natural attitude to the Occidental mind. In this matter, however, there is some truth; for the celebrated art critic, Wan Wei Mechieh, laid stress on how to choose the best quality of brush and ink-stick; and, mechanically speaking, brush and ink are undoubtedly essential to the painter, and more especially to the Oriental painter; but in such masterpieces as *Pê Mê* by Wang Ch'ia, and *Clouded Mountains* by Mi Chia, father and son, the intrinsic value is largely due to the manner in which brush and ink-stick were handled; and this pertains to all the best Oriental pictorial art.

Digitized by Google

TRADE SITUATION IN JAPAN

By M. Arikawa

THE present is the second year of the world's panic, considered internationally, and the second year of our lifting of the gold embargo.

This world panic, with its unparalleled dimensions as compared with ten world-wide economic crises occurring in the 19th Century, has overtaken all corners of the earth, with severe results to international trade. Japan, in consequence of this and the lifting of the gold embargo, has received a double blow on her foreign trade, which has suffered a great decrease.

During 1930 the foreign trade of the chief countries of the world fell off in value from 1929 by 18.4 per cent. for England, by 28.6 per cent. for America, 16.4 per cent. for Germany, 12.3 per cent. for France and by 31 per cent. for Japan. In this, Japan heads the list. In the balance of foreign trade, Japan was at the greatest disadvantage; for her exports for the year lost 31.6 per cent. as against 30.03 per cent. in imports, while in other countries, the decreases were smaller in percentage, being 22.3 per cent. in exports and 14.5 per cent. in imports for England; and 14.4 per cent. in exports and 10.2 per cent. in imports for France. Again, in America and Germany, decreases in exports were less than those in imports. From this, too, it may be easily seen how the balance of trade in Japan for 1930 was more unfavourable than than that in any of these countries.

In Japan

This year the economic situation both domestic and international seems to have been approaching the region of stabilization; yet foreign trade has maintained a decreasing tendency in value without showing any mark of improvement. It has been so, too, in Japan, as may be seen from the following figures:—

(In Thousands of Yen)

Month	Exports	Imports	Excess of Ex. or Im.
January	105,396	103,747	1,648 Ex.
February	91,817	98,664	6,847 Im.
March	95,140	127,979	31,839 „
April	81,602	127,064	45,462 „
Total	375,030	457,432	82,402 „
Same period, 1930	518,142	674,297	156,155 „
Dec. from 1930	143,112	216,865	73,753 „
„ in ratio	2.6 %	32.1 %	47.2 %

Digitized by Google

From the above table, it may be noted that for the first quarter of 1931 foreign trade of Japan, while retaining a depression, gives a balance somewhat different from the same period of 1930 with the exports decreasing to 27.6 per cent.—a ratio nearly same as for the latter,—and the imports increasing to 22.1 per cent., with a considerable falling off in the excess of imports, over exports, or 47.2 per cent. Since January, 1930, the exports and imports decreased monthly, but the imports increased remarkably in March and April, 1931.

In other Countries

The foreign trade of America, England, France and Germany for the first two months of 1931, (the figures the for the same period, 1930 being given by way of a comparison) were as follows:—

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Im. or Ex.
America (in Thousands of $) :			
1931	358,250	475,646	117,396 Ex.
1930	600,418	747,321	146,903 „
England (in Thousands of £)			
1931	127,326	69,357	57,968 Im.
1930	173,243	110,186	63,057 „
France (in Thousands of Francs) :			
1931	7,881,769	5,331,087	2,550,682 „
1930	9,567,059	7,739,289	1,827,770 „
Germany (in Thousands of Marks) :			
1931	1,338,000	1,553,000	215,000 Ex.
1930	2,286,000	1,338,000	178,000 Im.

In these countries, too, foreign trade at the beginning of this year mostly decreased 30 or 40 per cent. from the like interval, 1930, with an unfavourable balance, except in America and Germany. Seeing this, we need not mind much about the fact that for the first quarter of this year the foreign trade of Japan decreased about 30 per cent. and shows an excess of imports over exports amounting to 82,402,000 yen, or about 10 per cent. of the total of imports and exports.

Special Features

Needless to say each country has features of foreign trade different from others according to economic circumstances or the extent of capital invested abroad, and foreign trade must not be judged simply by a comparison of its value or its balance. England or France, for instance, which has an enormous amount of capital invested abroad, gets foreign goods imported naturally as returns to such an extent

Digitized by Google

as to exceed exports, and Germany necessarily brings about excess of exports over imports by the payment of reparations, Japan for the fiscal year 1930-1931 estimates 147,400,000 yen as interest on foreign loans and as their redemption funds, and 111,000,000 yen to receive as interest and returns on capital invested in foreign lands, the balance between these payments and receipts amounting to 36,000,000 yen on her debit side. This balance in the present circumstances has to be paid with the visible trade balance. If more freight and insurance rates be received, they may be applied to covering that balance, but the existing condition of the shipping world is too inactive to admit that hope. If there is not a sufficient balance in visible trade, recourse would have to be had to paying with specie or to raising a foreign loan or to recovering investments abroad. For the first quarter of this year, as above mentioned, imports increased rather markedly, and value of goods imported in excess of those exported during May and June,—the last two months of the import season, is an important question to be considered. Another point on which emphasis must be laid in this year's foreign trade is how much the possible excess of imports will be made up for in the second half year, the export period.

Trade Movements

As to the question of the ebb and flow of foreign trade we have to consider at first the favourable or unfavourable condition of visible and invisible exports and imports in relation to the international account, and then to analyse the condition of exports and imports from the viewpoint of domestic economy and industry. In the first instance, efforts are made to reduce payments and augment receipts as much as possible, simply to balance the international account. On this acts banking capital, and sometimes the Government and the bankers interested in international banking look rather biassed to it. Consumption economization, use of domestic products, exportation encouragement and the like are subjects perhaps mostly coming out of the motive of banking capitalists. In the latter instance, the condition of foreign trade depends naturally and entirely on changes in the foreign and domestic purchasing power and commodity prices; and the lack of control in these renders it impossible to artificially put them in good order, but rather to leave them to take their own course, according to circumstances. In other words, there are two sides in foreign trade, namely, the financial side of the international account and the industrial side of production and trade; and they form the inside and outside of foreign trade. In order to ascertain the exact truth about foreign trade, therefore, it would be

Digitized by Google

necessary to study it at these angles.

Japan Foreign Trade

As already stated, the foreign trade of Japan has been unusually small since last year. It may be pointed out, however, that this is in point of value, which, although having important bearing upon the economy of value as a matter of course, cannot be said to be absolutely the only way of observation, when the true relation between supply and demand in human society is considered. Trade for human beings to produce and to consume is commodities themselves and not value. As trade of to-day originates in barter, so the truth is to give our excessive products and get in exchange for them their excessive products, which we need. In dealing with foreign trade, therefore, the argument cannot be admitted as to the point, when it sees simply value and not quantity in addition. There are numerous kinds of trade articles, and to compute them by simple numbers or quantity is to disregard the extent of the demands of society. If there is a way to properly adjust the importance of trade articles for living and their value in trade, we may find at last a proper standard for foreign trade surveying. There is regrettably no satisfactory one available. The Research Dept. of the Mitsubishi Company seems to be using, as a way of observation, foreign trade in quantity figures got by multiplying the average price of each article for the five years 1921-1925 with the quantity. According to this method of culculation, the foreign trade of Japan for the firat two months, 1931, increased 5. 5 per cent. in exports and decreased 20 per cent. in imports. So, in quantity, the export trade grew, and the import trade diminished in a ratio less by over 10 per cent. than the fall in value. These differences in change in foreign trade between its quantity and value were in fine, owing to the depreciation of commodities, and when stress is laid upon value in considering it, it shows a great retrogression and shrinkage, but when it is considered quantity first, that is much mitigated. Moreover, seeing that there are not manp staple exports of Japan which trade is retarded its progress by too high foreign tariff walls, her export trade has the possibilities of a natural increrse as soon as the foreign purchasing power recovers. At the same time her import trade will be given a stimulus to improve soon after the commodity prices are stabilized and the national purchasing power enhances here. The only question is when and how the world's trade will revive and commodities here and abroad be stabilized. As matters stand now, however is very hard to foresee it before the second half of this year. In the meantime, the foreign trade of Japan will go on wavering in these chaotic circumstances, far from making any rapid development.

Digitized by Google

GOLDFISH

By M. Ouchi

TWO or three princely looking goldfish with flourishing fins composedly swimming about in a stately glass vase present a magnificent sight; nor is it less enchanting to see them amid the swaying grasses of an old, mossy banked pond in the quietude of a quaint Japanese garden. This aquatic pet is so popular among Japanese that it is always found in a large or small vessel on the counter of a restaurant or in a corner of the veranda of a small dwelling. Even in a poor workman's home a pretty glass bowl containing two or three lovely goldfish is seen placed on the window-sill. For generations past goldfish have established an intimate relationship with mankind in this country.

It is said that the fish first came from South China, and about 360 years ago was brought to Sakai, near Osaka, for the first time. However, what particular kind of fish it was which was brought from China in those early days is unknown. Nor is it clearly known whether there already existed many variations of goldfish in China in mediaeval days or whether such variations were developed in this country in the course of the hundreds of years of experimental cultivation in the past. A version of the legend ascribes the origin of goldfish in Japan to a certain feudal lord of Kôriyama, near Nara, which is now regarded one of the most prosperous goldfish-rearing centres of Japan. It is said that he and his successors succeeded in getting various kinds through constant improvement and experimental rearing, about a century and a half ago. Another legend says that a variation was first developed in the Loochoo Islands, then not in the domain of Japan, and some of the fish were presented to Lord Shimazu, one of the most powerful feudal houses in Kyushu in mediaeval days, who, in turn, presented it to the Shogun.

Principal Variations

Speaking of the kinds of goldfish, there are five which are generally know to-day, although we have many more varieties. They are: —

(1) *Wakin:* long-bodied, with short fins and tail, resembling a crucian or gibel; (2) *Ryukin:* short and plump, said to have been developed in the Loochow Islands; (3) *Ranchu:* very short and thick, with no dorsal fin, but with warts on the head; (4) *Oranda-Shishigashira:* resembling *Ryukin* in general appearance, but having warts on the head just like *Ranchu; Oranda* meaning, in Japanese, Holland, associated with our early trade with the

Digitized by Google

Dutch while in the seclusion days under the Tokugawa régime; and lastly (5) *Shinakin:* with the outstanding feature of projecting eyes, being otherwise called *Demekin* or goggled-eyed goldfish, and corresponding to what is named telescope fish in English. *Shinakin* literally means Chinese goldfish.

These five kinds are established variations. One can always expect their second generation, as well as their descendants, to be hatched with the definite characteristics of their respective parent fish fully developed in them. Other variations are not, so far, fixed, most of them being a variation for one generation only.

Exports Active

As for the introduction of the goldfish into Europe, it is said that some enterprising Dutch merchants carried a few of the specimens from China to the Cape of Good Hope as far back as in 1611, and after rearing them there for a while, they transported them to Europe. By the Japanese, however, hardly any export to Europe has been attempted so far, because of the long distance and the fact that the ship must necessarily pass the tropical zone. The United States is by far the largest customer for Japanese goldfish. The first goldfish to arrive in America is believed to have been transported across the Pacific Ocean from China, but nothing is recorded as to when that long journey took place. The first export from Japan is said to have taken place in 1867, one year prior to the historic restoration of the Imperial régime.

As to the export of Japanese goldfish to foreign countries during the early part of the Meiji era (1868-1912), there is no reliable official record, but it is believed that the fish were already being exported in the early part of the Nineties, although the volume and value were much smaller as compared with the recent trade. It is also evident that foreign residents in this country in those 'pioneer' days took great interest in goldfish, which they took home as souvenirs, while some seafarers on foreign ships calling at Japanese ports would buy goldfish not only as souvenirs, but for sale abroad. To-day, besides to the United States, Japanese goldfish are exported to Hawaii, Canada, Australia and Latin American republics.

Lack of statistics makes it difficult to learn exactly how many goldfish are exported annually to America and elsewhere, and what is the value thereof. Based on inquiries made at the main goldfish rearing centres in this country, and on various other reference data, Mr. J. Gamo, an Agriculture and Forestry Department expert, estimates the goldfish export to America as follows:—

Digitized by Google

Year	Number	Value
1926	1,000,000	¥138,000
1927	1,600,000	220,000
1928	2,000,000	276,000
1929	2,800,000	345,000

Transport Across the Pacific

It requires a good deal of precaution and skill to convey goldfish safely across the Pacific Ocean, and the undertaking not infrequently ends in a failure. Firstly, preliminary training of the fish is necessary so that they may endure the long journey. They are put in a small pond about a month previous to their proposed trip in order to make them accustomed to congested and uncomfortable life, while they are richly nourished. Then, two or three days prior to their voyage weak or sick fish are sorted out and removed. Secondly, the container should be carefully chosen. Generally speaking, a big barrel is used when the temperature is low, and a smaller one when it is warm. Thanks to a remarkable improvement in long-distance transportation, from 60 to 75 per cent. of the fish arrive at their destinations in America in sound condition.

As a rule, the goldfish are not fed in the course of transportation. But in case the journey lasts longer than a month and some weakening or leaning signs are shown, they are fed once a day with a small quantity of nourishment. It is from September to April of the following year that goldfish exportation generally takes place, for the reason that the weather conditions during this period are most favourable to the enterprise. Besides, the demand for the fish is also active during this season.

Rearing of the Fish in Japan

Goldfish are reared in Japan primarily because of their beauty in shape and colour, unlike fish for table use. No wonder, then, that the Japanese goldfish has a characteristic gracefulness as well as a unique brilliancy in colour. An astoundingly high price is often obtained for it. Wherever the climate is mild and the temperature of the water is not very low the fish are safely reared. Throughout the country rearing places are found everywhere, save Hokkaido and some northern parts of the Main Island.

One requires two kinds of ponds for rearing goldfish: one having a hard bottom and the other a natural bottom. The former is for spawning, hatching and also secluding the parent fish, while the latter is for bringing up the fish and making them in all stages of growth pass the winter. It is in April and May when the water ceases to be extremely cold that goldfish spawn among the grasses in the water. They spawn three or four times a year. In view of the fact that the shape and colour are of paramount importance in fixing the value of the fish, it is always

Digitized by Google

preferrable to hatch as much spa wn as possible, so that the bad fish may be sorted out later.

Removal of the Inferior

For three or four days, the hatched goldfish are fed with the yolks of eggs, and when they have grown up and begun to swim about actively after a month, the sorting out of the inferior begins. The sorting generally begins after 40 or 50 days have elapsed. At first, the poorer shapes are sorted out, followed by the colour-sorting. It is a sure sign of inferiority when the young fish have irregular and shrunken fins; and those with the left and right fins well-matched, the bodies straight, and the tails well-shaped and matched survive the sorting by shapes. As for colouring, those red about the mouth, the eyes, the sides of the head, or the entire head tail, as well as the belly, fins and nose, are generally considered superior.

Those having the entire body red are not always rejected as inferior, but the all-white ones are invariably thrown out. It is of some interest to find nourishment has much to do with the shade of colour. When the nourishment is sufficient, the colour is light, whereas the colouring of an under-nourished fish is always dark. Many goldfish experts have experimented in artificial colouring, but so far with little desired effects. At present they can merely darken or lighten the colouring, while unable to produce the bright red spots or other colours where the fish are all-white. At any rate it depends much on the personal taste of those who rear the fish when it comes to a question of colour. While in Tokyo the colour is not taken into consideration in the conditioning of *Ranchu*, in Osaka it is considered as one of the indispensable factors in conditioning the same variation.

Digitized by Google

PRESENT AND FUTURE OF JAPANESE COTTON EXPORTS

By

MR. SHIKAMURA, Managing Director, Fuji Gassed Spinning Co., Ltd.

THE world panic at the end of 1929 and the lifting of the gold embargo last year were crushing blows to the Japanese cotton industry, no less than to other productive industries; but the raising of the Indian tariff on cotton sheetings in April, 1930, the subsequent boycott of foreign goods in that country, and, particularly, the two succeeding abnormal falls of bar silver in China, each in the upper and lower half of last year, also checked the export of Japanese cotton manufactures to those countries to a remarkable extent. The Japanese cotton spinning industry, therefore, was forced to cut down operations three times last year, and all the mills did their utmost to cope with the grave situation by lowering cost as much as possible and carrying out efficient scientific management. Thanks to the these efforts, towards the latter half of 1930 business began to show a slightly favourable turn; but it was not until the beginning of this year that demand in the world market for Japanese cotton goods gradually recovered, on account of the scarcity of accumulated supplies in markets domestic and abroad as well. Since April this year the Japanese Spinners' Federation has decided on relaxing the curtailment of operations.

Cotton Yarn Exports

In 1929 the turnover of cotton yarns throughout Japan totalled 2,792,568 piculs, of which only 67,400 piculs were exported, the rest being supplied to the home market or used by domestic mills for weaving purposes. In 1930 the export still further declined to 59,386 piculs. Before the Great War, on the contrary, the activity of the Japanese cotton industry was so marvellous that exported cotton goods amounted to nearly ten times as large as today, those exported to China occupying about one-third of the total turnover, while the domestic market was also greatly extended. Since the War, however, the Chinese spinning industry has realized phenomenal development for the same reason as in Japan, and China has gradually lessened imports from Japan, which has hit the Japanese spinners hard. Thus the Japanese export of cotton yarns has considerably decreased since 1915, when it reached the climax of prosperity with the large

Digitized by Google

figure of 570,050 piculs. At present Japan is compelled to be content with exporting a small quantity of some high-grade special yarns, so far as trade with China is concerned.

It is true, however, that for a few years after the War Japan was able to check the declining tendency of her cotton yarn export to China by finding a new market in India. But, the Indian Government having raised its tariff on Japanese cotton yarns to an almost prohibitive extent in September, 1927, Japan has practically lost her cotton yarn market in that country. Only a slight increase in demand for Japanese goods is now found in Manchuria and Hongkong. Under these circumstances, there is now no hope for the future of the Japanese cotton spinning industry other than to replace the export of cotton yarns with that of sheetings.

Cotton Sheeting Exports

Previous to the World War, the market for Japanese cotton sheeting was limited to Korea, Manchuria and a smaller part of China; exports to Hongkong, India, Europe and others were too trifling to be worth mentioning. However, since during the War not only have Japanese cotton sheetings found their way to the greater part of China, but have advanced even to India, Java and the South Seas. After the War, in spite of world wide depression in the cotton industry, Japan was the only country able to maintain already acquired markets and, moreover, extend her market as far as the Near East and East Africa. Nevertheless, China, India and the Dutch East Indies still remain the most important customers for Japanese cotton sheetings. Particularly India and Java are large markets for Japanese cotton goods newly acquired by her as a trophy of the Great War. Taking advantage of Great Britain being forced to turn entire industrial energy of the manufacture of munitions for a time after the War, while America found it difficult to export cotton products on account of the shortage of bottoms and other reasons, Japan almost monopolized the export trade of cotton sheetings; her export to China was nearly doubled. Besides, she was able to extend her market in the above-mentioned districts in the world. Thus Japanese cotton sheeting has come to be regarded as merchandise of world importance.

Exports Increasing

The world trade depression of 1930 considerably reduced the purchasing power of all nations. This together with a lot of artificial hindrances caused the export of Japanese cotton sheetings to be reduced last year by some 34 per cent. in value and about 12 per cent. in volume. Taking it for

Digitized by Google

granted that a remarkable decrease in value is inevitable at such a moment of serious slackness of business as this, the decline in quantity only by 12 per cent. must be ascribed to the thorough-going efforts for rationalization of management on the part of Japanese spinners and cotton traders, as well as to the incessant advance of Japanese goods in East Africa and the Balkans.

Owing to considerable increase in exports of plain sheetings to India, the quantity of cotton sheetings of various kinds exported to that country in 1929 surpassed that to China, occupying about 80 percent. of the total exports, if the export to Java is added. In 1930 China and India still remained as the most important markets for Japanese sheetings. As for the deboutchment into Africa and Near Eastern countries, we cannot overlook the steady increase in volume of exports even if the increase in value be insignificant on account of the larger part consisting of low-grade plain sheetings. At any rate, nobody can deny the bright prospects of the newly acquired markets in Africa and the Balkans. In European markets, too, the future of Japanese cotton sheetings is very hopeful. For instance, taking the opportunity of the recent decay of the British spinning industry, Japanese sheetings have begun to make their appearance even in Lancashire.

It is noticeable that in 1930 the export of Japanese bleached cotton sheetings markedly increased in quantity, that is by 34,758,000 sq. yards, although a decrease by 2,272,000 yen in value was recorded. If we classify the descriptions of exported cotton sheetings, it is of interest to see a remarkable increase in the export of cotton satin. Whereas even the name, cotton satin, was not found in the trade return for 1920, its export in 1929 amounted to 57,140,000 yen. In importance for exportation, next to satin, rank coloured calico, cotton poplin, and so forth.

Future of Cotton Goods Export

Rapid development of the cotton spinning industry in Japan was principally due to lowness of the prices of raw materials and cheapness of labour. But in future these two advantageous points can not be expected. In order to compete with China in this industry, Japan will have to turn to the production of high-grade or worked-on goods from that of lower-grade articles as at present. For this American cotton will take the place of Indian cotton as raw material, which will result in rise of cost of production. On the other hand, wages are getting higher and higher in this country in proportion to the standard of living, whereas in China far cheaper labour is obtainable. Besides, China has no such complicated labour legislation as in Japan. Under these circumstances, Japan will here-

Digitized by Google

after be obliged to confine herself to the production of higher-grade cotton goods, and worked-on articles will be preferred to plain sheetings for export. Meanwhile, rationalization of dyeing and improvement of general skill in spinning and weaving will become an important problem.

Secondly, Japanese cotton traders should be resolved to seek new markets, there being little hope of maintaining the present influence in China and India, because of the recent rapid progress of the industry in those two countries themselves, and the protective policy adopted by their governments. Actually in China the native low-grade goods are rapidly encroaching on the Japanese market. So we cannot expect too much from that country, although there is still ample room for extension of the market for higher-grade sheetings. As new markets, the Near East, the South Seas and Africa are considered very hopeful, even if some competition with England, Italy, Czechoslovakia and China may be inevitable in those regions. Attention should also be paid to West and North Europe.

Lastly, government aid is absolutely necessary for the future activity of the cotton goods trade. The Japanese cotton spinning industry has so far developed by means of its own strength, but unless it is systematically guided by the government its development in future can hardly be expected. The government, already awake to this, established last year a solid system for the production and sale of cotton crêpe, by organizing its manufacturers. It has brought about fruitful results and caused the market to be improved. The cotton crêpe industry has shown such favourable conditions that this year the total turnover has increased. Such government assistance will be extended to the whole cotton industry, and important questions such as the replenishment of the subvention to the export of cotton goods and lending of capital at low interest will be taken into consideration.

Digitized by Google

FISH VIEWED SCIENTIFICALLY

By Tadao Hoshi

WHILE white people set little importance on fish, considering it simply as 'a diet for the brain,' the Japanese are unrivalled by any other race in the world so far as fish-eating is concerned. Particularly as eating it raw, like *sashimi* (slices of raw fish) or *arai* (sliced raw fish made crisp by soaking in iced water), they may be said to be exceptions to the rest of mankind. Besides, no other nation is so developed in knowledge of fishes.

Westerners are generally liable to be one-sided in their liking of edible fish, whether frigid zone or tropical zone fish, whereas the Japanese consume everyday almost all kinds of fish produced from the three climatic zones, mainly on account of the geographical situation of the country, on the one hand, and of their inherent taste for fish, on the other. It is undeniable that, generally speaking, they seem to prefer warm water fish living in the southern waters, such as *tai* (sea-bream) and bonito. Every fish has its 'season,'; the bonito is most delicious in autumn, the tile-fish and red porgy also in autumn, the yellow-tail in the coldest season, and the sea-bream in the cherry-blossom season. It is to be noted, however, that the yellow sea-bream has no 'season' and is consequently not a delicacy, as they are sent to our country all the year round from the direction of the Yellow Sea and Tung-hai, by trawlers.

Fish Flavours

As to flavour of fish, we can reach no conclusion unless we have thorough knowledge, not alone about the season but also the age of fish, the catching season, habitat, method of fishing and manner in which they are treated after catching. The taste is so delicate and complicated that it is no easy task to tell one from another. To speak of one or two essential points, the female is more delicious than the male; while an infant fish is short of fat and too watery, an older one is also unsebaceous and too stiff; therefore, the middle-aged one is most delicious, being very fat. Besides, those caught by netting are more sweet than those angled.

Scientifically speaking, the real flavour of fish lies in albuminous substances such as albumin, globulin and others contained in the muscular fibres, and the taste varies to a large extent in accordance with the proportion of sebaceous matter contained. Needless

Digitized by Google

to say, well-nourished fish, being rich in fat and less watery, are very delicious, The reason for making a tunny and bonito sweeter than other white-fleshed fish lies in the abundance of fat and scarcity of watery substance in them, and it is because they are rich in blood that their flesh is reddish.

There is a traditional but ungrounded conviction among the Japanese that the sardine and herring are to be made light of, superstitiously considering them mean fish. But forigners, on the contrary, are inclined to admire such blue-backed fishes as aherring, sardine and mackerel; the Frenchman in particular passes a seabream without a look. However low in price they may be, the herring, sardine and the saury pike favourably compare with what ever other kinds of fish in respect to nutritive value. In view of this fact, there is no reason for worrying about being too poor to afford to eat sliced flesh of raw *tai* or broiled eels served on the every-day table, both of which are high in price.

Caloric Quality of Fish

The market prices, the proportion of albuminous elements contained and calories of different descriptions of fish are compared in order as below :—

Market Price :—Eel, sea-bream, lobster, tunny, oyster, salmon, herring roe, cuttlefish, sardine, and herring.

Albumen : —Lobster, herring roe, sea-bream, sardine, cuttlefish, eel, salmon, tunny, and oyster.

Sebaceous :—Eel, herring, salmon, tunny, sardine, sea-bream, herring roe, cuttlefish, oyster, and lobster.

Mineral :—Cuttlefish, tunny, lobster, herring, sardine, sea-bream, eel, oyster, and herring roe.

Calorie :—Eel, sardine, salmon, herring, herring roe, sea-bream, lobster, cuttlefish.

The ingredients of the flesh of fish and shellfish are quite similar to those of beef, pork, mutton and chicken, the only difference lying in the abundance of watery component in the former in comparison with animal meat; on an average, ordinary fish flesh contains 70 per cent. of moisture. As to mineral element, fish is richer in it than animal meat or chicken; particularly the comparatively abundant contenance of albuminous phosphorus is counted as one of the characteristic features of fish. It goes without saying that white phosphorus is is remarkably efficacious for increasing the efficiency of cerebral functions. No wonder foreigners define fish as an aliment for the brain. Take for instance herring roes and caviars. Various sorts of albumen are in these fish-eggs, especially one termed "ichtslin," which has a large quantity of phosphorus and sulphur, with which as raw materials such nutritious medicines as liver-oil and calopis are

Digitized by Google

prepared. Then there are the principal kinds of amino-acids consisting of albumen contained in fish and shellfish: triptofan and tylosin, essential for the sustenance of human life; and ligin, alguinin, hystigin, loysin, valin and other which are indispensable for physical development. According to an authoritiative report published by the American Standardization Board, albumen and amino-acids contained in fish resemble very much those in chicken meat in their quantity and nature. In view of this statistical report, there is no necessity of sticking to chicken which is relatively dear; we should encourage more consumption of fish far lower in price and yet with the same nutritive value.

Fish Vitamins

Generally speaking, fish is very rich in vitamin-A which has the wonderful power of solving fat. As everyone well knows, liver-oils of codfish and shark (*samé*) contain the most abundant quantity of vitamin-A. Then what is the source for supplying the fish with this vitamin? It emanates from sea-weed. According to a certain physician's verdict, fish living nearer the surface of water are more sebaceous than those swimming in the deep sea or over sands. Again, in the body of a fish the hypodermic part is most rich in accumulation of fatty elements, being followed by intervals of viscera and, then, flesh tissues. The codfish and shark make an exception, because in them the fatty substance of the whole body is concentrated only on the liver and cannot be found in any other part.

On account of the very popular use of fish-oil for lighting in the old Shogunate régime, the oil is generally called lighting fish-oil in this country. Although it is not exactly known when the custom began, it may be safe to say that we may trace it back to the pre-Yedo government times. Today sardines, herrings and flatfish provide the greater part of fish-oil, from an industrial viewpoint. Japan is preëminently a fish-oil producing country. When hydrogen gas is forced into fish-oil, which has a nauseatingly offensive odour, the latter is immediately transformed into an odorless and solid material resembling white wax. This is called "stiff oil," being good to eat and also employed as a raw material for manufacturing soap and candles. The snowy-white and apparently very hard fat sold in most of butcher shops in Tokyo and other cities and towns is nothing but a mixture of this stiff oil and lard. It is far less delicious and less sticky than ox-lard, but an inexperienced cook finds it very hard to tell one from the other.

Furthermore, fish-oil is used for various kinds of paints, tanning, lubrication of varied kinds of machinery

Digitized by Google

and others. In this connection, it should be noted that fish-oil is very suitable to take the place of castol oil, non-obtainable unless by import from abroad, for lubricating an aeroplane engine, while it can be dissolved into glycerin and sebaceous acid. The shark, it may be added, is a strange fish; when we make further researches as to its eggs, entrails and liver which contain a good deal of carbonic hydrogen, as well as its skin, we may discover further new processes for utilizing it.

Dr. Orestis Farrara, new Cuban Minister to Japan, now leaving Imperial Hotel to proceed to the Imperial Palace for presenting credentials to His Majesty.

Digitized by Google

RAYON INDUSTRY

Ray of Sunshine in Industrial Gloom

By T. Oba

IN Japan, as elsewhere, the development of the artificial silk industry has been one of the outstanding features of post-war industrial progress. Few people ever imagined that its growth would have been so phenomenal, both in standard of quality and in the total quantity produced.

Marvellous Figures

A glance at the official figures for total world production shows that it has been more than trebled in quantity during the last five years; and each year has shown a distinct improvement in the quality produced, with big advances in every direction. It brings a ray of sunshine into our industrial gloom to recognize the rapid growth of the artificial silk industry in this country, bringing some degree of prosperity to centres where changing trade conditions had previously disturbed outlet for employment. We do not know the exact number of the operatives engaged in the industry, but they must be many thousands. Yet we are only at the threshold of still greater development. The rayon industry did not start in Japan until 1918. In 1926 we had to import about 3,293,000 lbs of the 7,600,000 lbs consumed annually; but in 1928 our output reached 16,500,000 lbs, while our imports fell to 254,000 lbs, and at present our producing capacity has quite reached demand. This may seem small, compared with the 52,000,000 lbs produced annually in England; but to be able to supply the bulk of our home needs is something to be proud of and to be encouraged by; and in time our exports of rayon will rapidly increase. Our record of progress during the past few years guarantees bright prospects for the future of the industry in this country.

Finer Qualities

The Osaka joint German enterprise established in 1929, known as the Bemburg system, is turning out yarns of 750 denier grade which are claimed to be equal to natural silk, but the cost of production is 20 to 30 per cent. higher than in the case of ordinary rayon. We are yet only at the beginning of the process of successfully combining artificial silk with cotton, but the work is growing, with increasing demand both at home and abroad. The latest fabrics are more enticing and delicate than before; and soon there will be no limitation to the kinds

Digitized by Google

of articles that can be made of this material.

The modern woman is indeed but an artificial silk model; and even men are beginning to see possibilities in the use of this material for their own wear. It is doubtful whether men will ever be able to rival women in demand for artificial silk; but no one can deny that there are still undeveloped possibilities, especially out here in the Far East, for the production of a material fitted for men's wear in the hot weather. None of the present material is exactly comfortable, and pongee silk is too expensive when the clothes have to be washed so often. If some expert would only decide to exercise some ingenuity in thinking out a silk mixture suitable for men's summer wear, the result would, no doubt, be welcomed, with profit to all concerned. At any rate, no restriction can be placed on the possibilities of artificial silk development; for there is nothing in the shape of textile products into which rayon cannot enter into combination, or for which it cannot be employed as a substitute. The public quickly appreciates a good article; and artificial silk has not only proved brilliant in its attractiveness but most satisfactory in its utility.

Healthy Competition

How far Japan will play an important part in world production of artificial silk remains to be seen, but we are well on the way to successful competition. We admit that the enormous improvement in our rayon produce has been much helped by collaboration with foreign technical skill, experience and supervision. England has not failed to welcome visits from continental manufacturers, nor even the establishment of factories by foreigners, all of which helps to secure employment for her people. It is Japan's duty to encourage industrial development at home and to employ as many as possible of her own people. England, America, Germany, Italy, France, Holland and Belgium are all bidding eagerly for the lion's share in the the rayon trade; so that Japan will have to look to her own interests if she is to compete successfully with the enormous output abroad. It is up to us, therefore, to keep our end up and face the situation effectively.

Healthy competition is just the tonic needed to keep traders up to date. We have done very well in rayon so far; but it is the future we have to look to; and it is for the future that we must work. It is only excellence of manufacture, combined with a reasonable regard for cheapness of production, that can command a ready and satisfactory market. In the long run it is quality and price that tell. It is the article which pleases the customer most and possesses the greater attractiveness, which will eventually win ap-

Digitized by Google

proval and meet with the greatest success.

Increasing Exports

One of the most encouraging aspects of the present situation in Japan is the increasing exports of rayon to India and other markets. It is remarkable that rayon exports from England to India have recently declined to a considerable extent, in favour of the Japenese article, the decline in 1930 amounting to about one-fifth of the average, while Japanese exports of rayon to India have increased some tenfold in the same period. The following figures represent India's rayon imports from various countries in 1930, with 1928 for comparison:

Country (In 1000 sq. Yds.)	1930	1928
Japan . . .	21,952	1,620
Italy . . .	4,257	14,114
Sweden. . .	2,648	4,633
Britain . . .	2,140	10,635
Total . .	32,809	37,877

Moreover, statictics show that during the last three months of 1930 Japanese all-rayon fabrics constituted 96 per cent. of the total rayon imports by India, and Japan now occupies the third position among the world's rayon producing countries in supply of mixed rayon textiles.

Digitized by Google

FAMOUS CONCHOLOGISTS

By Jérome Abé

SOME seventy years ago when the slogan, 'Loyalty to the Emperor and banishment of barbarians,' was marking the close of the Tokugawa shogunate, there lived a famous physician named Son-an Numata in a little hamlet on the small island of Awaji in the Inland Sea. Son-an was no less distinguished as a scholar than as a physician, being well versed in the Chinese classics, which brought him into close contact with other lofty-souled patriots of that time, such as San-yo Rai and Shochiku Shinozaki. The learned doctor kept a private school for teaching the classics of China, the only institution of the kind in Awaji. He named his school the *Hyakunin-dô*, or Home of a Hundred Men. The instruction given in the school was naturally personified in the head master himself, who was greatly reverenced by all, including the pupils of the *terakoya* or local temple schools.

A Strange Youth

In the rear of the school house was a dense forest where a gentle-looking youth, with an unusually large queue as a topknot on his head, used to sit almost every day at the root of a tall tree, nibbling a bit of lunch in a leisurely fashion, as if he had not a care in the world. Suddenly he would finish up the remnant of his meal with gusto, jump up and cast a look towards the school, and then walk off in the opposite direction. Sometimes when Numata's wife caught a glimpse of the lad loitering among the trees at the back of the school she would remark, "There is that boy Yoichiro san again! I wonder what he can be doing there in the woods!"

The lad was not at all a bad boy, but he hated study; and even after taking the trouble to reach the vicinity of the school, he preferred to play truant and eat his lunch under the trees. It is not easy to see in this easy-going youth the makings of greatness. Yet his name was Yoichiro Hirasé who became the foremost conchologist in Japan and a leading authority on that science throughout the world.

On attaining manhood the youth moved to Kyoto, finding himself next door to the Zoological Gardens beside the famous Nanzenji temple; and here he finally established the noted Hirasé Conchological Museum, the only one of the kind in Japan, and better known among foreign scientists than at home. The Museum reached its highest honour when it received a special visit from His Majesty the present Emperor when Crown Prince. But the list of

Digitized by Google

visitors interested in the Museum includes many distiuguished names: not only Imperial Princes and Princesses but many of Japan's leading nobles and statesmen, and some famous foreign visitors. In fact the more distinguished and intelligent a visitor to Kyoto is the more anxious he is to visit the famous Museum and contemplate its priceless exhibits.

Man of Public Spirit

As his fame increased the name of Mr. Hirasé became a symbol for philanthropy and good deeds, so profoundly and practically interested was he in all good works for the benefit of humanity. Indeed he was as famous for his public benefactions as he was for his knowledge of conchology. That he had led an easy youth was but natural perhaps, as his foster father was wealthy and brought him up in the pleasant Awaji village without much concern for an active life. As a young man he was marked by a peculiarly gentle disposition, treating all with kindness and consideration. Whenever he heard or read a pathetic tale he was moved to tears and grieved over the tragedies of life. No sacrifice on his part was too great if he could help or relieve others. It was but natural, however, that some of his wealth should go to the science to which he became devoted, enabling him to secure the best examples of shells from every part of the world. Contenting himself with simple living, he spent on science what others spent on luxury, not wearing even silk like the typical gentleman of his day. But he never hesitated to spend money on the needy and the afflicted. Indeed his interest in science was motivated by his interest in humanity. He desired to enable others to see and be instructed by what they could never have seen without his assistance in this way.

Scientific Achievements

In his devotion to the science of conchology Mr. Hirasé made some sixty discoveries in the comparatively new field of this science. He began with collecting snail shells, especially those at Nyakuôji around Mount Takao near his native place; and his skill in drawing enabled him to picture accurately whatever was of scientific interest to him. In time he found himself in possession of a collection of over 3,000 important shells of Japanese origin, while his entire collection numbered over 10,000 with those from abroad, thus constituting an ideal conchological collection and making the finest museum of the kind to be seen anywhere. The sixty new shells discovered by himself added greatly to his fame as a conchologist; and in naming them he associated the terminology with his own name. It was for this that the Emperor conferred on Mr.

Digitized by Google

Hirasé the Blue-Ribbon Medal of Merit.

An Episode

To show his unique personality a certain episode may here be related of Mr. Hirasé, as it indicates his extreme simplicity of character and manner of life. On the occasion of a banquet given by friends in his honour to congratulate him on the completion of the Kyoto Conchological Museum, as the entertainment was in full swing he was obliged to make a speech. For this he felt that no amount of shell study or lore could have prepared him, but he felt that it would be discourteous to decline, and hurt the feelings of his friends. Suddenly springing to his feet, he stretched out his arms and clenched his fists; then he swung them right and left while taking ten paces forward, and then retreating to his seat, in silence. People said it was the only 'stunt' he had ever attempted, and the most effective for his purpose. It was understood to mean the active life of one of the many crustaceans he had described in his scientific work.

Needless to say, the establishment and support of his museum required more money than Mr. Hirasé could finally supply, and his next difficulty was to find funds to keep up the museum. He anticipated that he would be forced to give away his collection to other museums, the Imperial Museum in Tokyo, perhaps; but an unknown benfactor appeared from the province of Bizen, in the person of Mr. Yozo Hirosé and his father, Mr. Genzaburo Hirosé, who made a magnificent contribution of some ¥40,000 and thus saved the situation. Although residing in Manchuria at the time, they heard of the difficulties of the Kyoto Museum and came to the rescue. No condition was attached to the generous donation which they handed to Mr. Hirasé. With tearful eyes and greateful heart the aged scientist accepted the gift.

Last Days

During the trying days of anxiety over the future of the great Museum Mr. Hirasé suffered considerably in health, and the generous gift for relief of this anxiety did not come in time to restore his broken health. Seven years ago he passed peacefully away at his Kyoto home in front of the Hamaguri Gate of the old Palace, at the age of 67. The founder of the famous museum was fortunate in having to succeed him a son who graduated in science at the Tokyo Imperial University, and who is no less devoted to conchology than his father. Young Hirasé is concentrating his studies on this special branch of knowledge with untiring devotion, while his two daughters have also taken up the subject and are engaged in research work, particularly

Digitized by Google

the elder daughter who expects to succeed her father as director of the Museum. In this hope she is well seconded by her husband, Dr. Torikai, a professor in the Kyoto Imperial University. The youngest son took up art instead of science and is studying in France. An interesting fact of family history is that Mr. Hirasé the younger is a grandson of the famous Son-an Numata at whose school the elder Hirasé studied when a youth. The lady, who is the wife of Hirasé the younger, has herself done remarkable work in the science of conchology, especially in regard to the breeding of snails. For devotion to a special branch of science, the Hirasé family is certainly one of the most remarkable in Japan, if not in the world.

Digitized by Google